

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system that facilitates access to data comprising:
a set component that identifies sets of data; and,
a display component that displays at least one data set in a semi-collapsed view.
2. The system of claim 1, the display component view displaying a subset of the at least one data set in an expanded view, and another subset in a collapsed view.
3. The system of claim 1, information displayed in the semi-collapsed view being based, at least in part, upon inference of a user's preference.
4. The system of claim 1, a quantity of data items displayed in the semi-collapsed view being based, at least in part, upon a user selection.
5. The system of claim 1, a quantity of data items displayed in the semi-collapsed view being based, at least in part, upon a function of available display area.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the display component cycles through expanded, semi-collapsed and collapsed views of the at least one data set.
7. The system of claim 6, cycling being based, at least in part, upon user input.
8. The system of claim 1, information displayed in the semi-collapsed view being based, at least in part, upon a user state.
9. The system of claim 1, information displayed in the semi-collapsed view being based, at least in part, upon a history of a user.

10. The system of claim 1, information displayed in the semi-collapsed view being based, at least in part, upon a user's focus of attention.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein at least some of the information displayed in the semi-collapsed view is color-coded.

12. The system of claim 1, the sets of data representing a logical and/or physical grouping of data items.

13. The system of claim 12, grouping being based, at least in part, upon at least one of physical location of the data items, author of the data items, creation time and/or date of the data items, modification time and/or date of the data items, data item size, data item type, data item category and content of the data items.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein at least some of the data items are computer files.

15. A file viewer employing the system of claim 1.

16. The system of claim 1, further comprising an input device that facilitates navigation of the semi-collapsed view.

17. A method that facilitates access to data comprising:
identifying sets of data items; and,
displaying at least one of the sets in a semi-collapsed state.

18. The method of claim 17 comprising at least one of the following:

19. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 17.

20. A user interface comprising:
 - a first region displaying some data items of a first data set in a semi-collapsed view; and,
 - a second region displaying data items of a second data set in a collapsed or expanded view.
21. The user interface of claim 20, further comprising a control region that facilitates scrolling through the first data set of the first region.
22. The user interface of claim 20, further comprising the first region further comprising a scroll bar that facilitates access to the data items of the first data set.
23. A data packet transmitted between two or more computer components that facilitates access to data the data packet comprising:
 - a first field comprising information associated with at least one data set to be displayed in a semi-collapsed view; and,
 - a second field comprising information associated with another data set to be displayed in at least one of an expanded view and a collapsed view.
24. A system that facilitates access to data comprising:
 - means for identifying sets of data; and,
 - means for displaying at least one data set in a semi-collapsed view.